

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 978

By Norris

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend Laurie Moorhead of Shelby County upon being named the 2006 Tennessee PTA Outstanding Teacher.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those outstanding professionals who have dedicated their careers to providing the highest quality education for Tennessee's students; and

WHEREAS, Laurie Moorhead is most assuredly one such superlative professional, and she has been recognized as the 2006 Tennessee PTA Outstanding Teacher, a fitting recognition of her service as a second grade teacher at Tara Oaks Elementary School in Collierville, Tennessee, for the past nine years; and

WHEREAS, a native of Hattiesburg, Mississippi, Ms. Moorhead promotes the welfare of her students and makes her students feel special by attending at least one outside event for each; she invests in the lives of her students and keeps the classroom door open to parents, communicating with them regularly; and

WHEREAS, Laurie Moorhead nurtures an environment of kindness in her classroom by catching students "being good;" when any of Ms. Moorhead's "Minnows" helps a classmate, has a good idea, or follows instructions correctly, she or he is allowed to color a paper minnow to hang on the "pond" wall of the classroom, which illustrates how each student's behavior impacts the entire class; and

WHEREAS, the kindness that Ms. Moorhead fosters in the classroom also extends into the community; for instance, the students "adopt" residents of a local nursing home who have no family in town and prepare gifts and letters for them at Christmas time; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moorhead is indeed an exceptional and rare educator and advocate for our children; she not only encourages academic excellence in her students, but also encourages them to excel in life; and

WHEREAS, her professional accomplishments notwithstanding, Laurie Moorhead is most grateful for the love and support of her husband, Bobby; they have been blessed with three children: J.R., Kyle, and Marlie; and

WHEREAS, Ms. Moorhead is an extremely talented and compassionate educator who has worked assiduously to motivate her students to reach their full potential, both as scholars and as individuals; she serves as an inspiration to her colleagues and students alike, and her friendship and counsel are highly valued by those who are fortunate to know her; and

WHEREAS, Laurie Moorhead truly epitomizes the dedicated teacher who is wholly committed to the highest ideals of public service and quality education for all, and she should be specially recognized; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED FOURTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend Laurie Moorhead for her generous dedication to her students and her community, congratulate her upon being named as the 2006 Tennessee PTA Outstanding Teacher, and offer our heartfelt wishes for every continued success in her future endeavors.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.